

No More Reconstruction Needed.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, writing under date of the 14th instant, says:

"The reply which the President sent to the Senate yesterday to Senator Morton's resolution, with regard to the condition of affairs in the Southern States, has made but little impression upon the Senate. With the exception of a few extreme radicals, who are anxious to perpetuate the power of the Republican party in the South, there is no disposition to meddle with affairs in that section. Anything like a fresh attempt at reconstruction would, it is thought, react upon the people and make it obnoxious before the people. The majority of Congressmen are disposed to let the South alone, believing that it is better to do this than to interfere with affairs which belong exclusively to the several States. Notwithstanding, an effort will probably be made to make some capital out of the facts set forth in the President's reply to Morton's resolution. But the ablest politicians in the Republican party concede that the South will be hopelessly Democratic by the time the next Presidential election is held. It is to avert this catastrophe that the extreme radicals would attempt a new reconstruction."

Abbott.

The Northern Republican press make light of the pretensions of General Abbott to the seat in the Senate to which Governor Vance has been elected. In fact the people of the South are not more disgusted with the carpet-baggers who have "crawled" into high official positions than the Northern Republicans, if we may judge from the utterances of their prominent men and the editorials of their leading papers.

"Senator Abbott, of North Carolina," says the New York Herald, "is very strong. He opposed to general amnesty. Since Vance has been elected to succeed him, he believes the rebels never will be 'truly loyal.'"

The Philadelphia Telegraph, a strictly Radical paper, speaks of our Senator and his preposterous claim, and of carpet-baggers generally, as follows:

Mr. Abbott, of North Carolina, proposes to attempt to get a seat in the United States Senate, not because he received a majority of votes for that position, or because he is legally elected, but because he is a successful competitor, Governor Vance, is disqualified. If the latter allegation is well founded it seems a singularly bad reason for ordering a new election than for admitting to the Senate a man who is not the legal choice of the people of North Carolina. The Republican party of the South has already suffered so much from arrangements similar to that contemplated by Abbott that they should all be discontinued in future. A large portion of the office-holding Southern Republicans have proven miserable and traitorous time-servers at best, and it is an exceedingly unprofitable task to exercise doubtful powers in behalf of any of them. They are too poor a lot to justify heavy investments.

The Newark Advertiser, a rigid Republican paper, gives publicity to the following estimate of our Senator and his fellow-carpet-bagger in the Senate:

The withdrawal of four of the carpet-baggers—namely, of Alabama, Abbott of North Carolina, McDonald of Arkansas, and Harris of Louisiana—excites little regret, and the attempt of the first two to hold their seats as legal successors is alleged to be disfranchised will prove a sorry failure. Abbott's successor elect (ex-Gov. Vance) will not be admitted. He will retire as certainly. The Senator (ex-Gov. Vance) will be a positive gain by his removal. He is a native Southerner, for Harris, the sitting Senator.

It is said that a few days since these "Southern" Senators were made to wince under the thrust of Senator CONKLING, of New York, when illustrating the manner in which his colleague, Fenton, got into the Senate, by the facts of the eagle, who, finding a worm in its nest, indignantly demanded how it reached that lofty eminence. The worm piteously replied, "I crawled here." Whether the New York Senator covertly aimed his arrows at the brood of negro-made Senators is unknown. If so his skill was rewarded by a "centre shot."

General Blair.

The election of General BLAIR as United States Senator from Missouri is a matter of great significance. There were many reasons of peculiar force why his return to political position in so exalted a sphere as the Senate should be peculiarly distasteful and unfortunate to the Radical party. He is one of the ablest and boldest men in the Northwest. He has by his bitter crusade against the Reconstruction measures of Congress made himself very obnoxious to the party in power. A firm and intimate friend and adviser of the late President LINCOLN, and one of his most valued and trusted officers during the war, General BLAIR entered Congress with a prestige and an influence which the Radicals dread, and with a knowledge of men and facts connected with the war, administration which they fear.

An attempt was made in the Missouri Legislature, of which General BLAIR was a member, pending the election for Senator, to force him to endorse or recede from the position assumed by him in his famous letter to Colonel Broadhead in 1863, and upon which he was nominated for Vice-President. Mr. Pope, one of the members from St. Louis, introduced a resolution endorsing the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Federal Constitution and the reconstruction of the General Government.

The resolution came up on the day before the Senatorial election on a motion to refer to the Committee on Federal Relations, of which General BLAIR was Chairman. His speech on the occasion was characteristic of the man, and its endorsement by the Legislature, by electing him on the day following, gives us some insight into the character of the political revolution which has taken place in that State.

General BLAIR said he was in favor of the Thirteenth Amendment, and believed the South generally assented to it, but the reconstruction acts he declared unconstitutional, and referred to the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Cummings against the State of Missouri; also to the case of Milligan and Bowles who

were tried by a military commission in Indiana during the war. Referring to his Broadhead letter he used the following language:

"Now, sir, my letter, which has been referred to, contained no military commission. I said that you had only to withdraw them from the South, and their work will be undone. I said that the carpet-baggers, who are gorged upon the plunder and drink with the blood of the vanquished people of the South will disperse themselves in an instant, if not detained by the bayonets of the Federal Government. There is no reason in that letter that I take back. I stand by it. I believe in the constitution given to the Constitution of the United States by the Supreme Court, that this reconstruction was unconstitutional."

"My hope in going to Congress, if I should attain that high position, is that I may aid in withdrawing the troops from those Southern States which are held there to saddle upon the backs of that people a parcel of carpet-baggers and scoundrels, followed by an ignorant mass of negroes. If the people of the South, who have shown a disposition to abide in good faith by the Government, they will be allowed to resume self-government, and what I may not expect to carry with me the gentleman from St. Louis, I believe that we can surely and certainly carry with us the large body of liberal men who assisted us in relieving ourselves from a similar tyranny in the State of Missouri."

River and Bar Improvements.

Major

Walter Griswold, of the U. S. Engineer Corps, who is in charge of the Cape Fear River and Bar Improvements, now in progress, has just completed a detailed report of his operations, addressed to Col. W. P. Craigbill, of the Engineer Corps, and through him to be forwarded in reply to resolution of the U. S. Senate, recently adopted, asking for information in regard to the progress of these works. The report is elaborate and is very encouraging, and we hope that the good which, beyond a doubt, has been already accomplished, may induce the Congress to vote continued appropriations to the work.

Those of our readers who were once belated residents of the city, may remember that there was once a little sand strip on the south side of New Inlet bar, and opposite Fort Fisher, called Zeke's Island. This was separated on the south by a shallow inlet, from Smith's Island, which is a long, low tract running down to Cape Fear, widening as it goes. Zeke's Island has been gradually washed away by easterly winds and tides until but little of it now remains, and it is here, from along the Zeke's Island sand bar across the shallow inlet, and on the upper part of Smith's Island, that the great injury to the river and bar has been done. A high easterly wind drives the water over these points, and it carries with it, as it goes, large masses of sand which fall into the sound and marshes known as Buzzard's Bay. These are affected by the tidal currents and are gradually taken up and carried down the channel, some of them being deposited in the river, and others stopping in what is known as the rip, on Main Bar, opposite Fort Caswell.

Having carefully ascertained these facts the officers in charge knew just how to proceed; like the physician, having made a careful diagnosis of the disease, their skill and experience at once suggested the remedy. The object of their labors, thus far, has been to build a line of obstructions from a point on Zeke's Island to the north, to Smith's Island on the south, of sufficient strength and ability to successfully resist the action of the waves. They know that, this once accomplished, there would be less washing of the sand from the bay into the river, because there could be no tide from the ocean, at that point, to force it away. These obstructions are not yet completed, but already a favorable change has been noted; the channel at New Inlet has been improved, and the pilots report a gradual increase of water on the rip at Main Bar, all of which can be directly traced to the influence of the obstructions. As the work has proceeded a new idea has been developed to General Simpson, the chief officer, which is that New Inlet itself may be successfully obstructed, and the channel of the river and the Main Bar thus become washed out and improved. By obstructing New Inlet and by the use of a steam dredge, it is felt sure that our bar can be restored to its original depth, and that the largest ships can be floated over it safely. In the meantime, it is supposed that the large expanse of water known as Buzzard's Bay, will be gradually filled up by sand washing down from the banks of Smith's Island, and which cannot be carried into the channel of the river, or across to the bar, as we have heretofore explained, for the want of tidal action.

We have written more than we intended which was, merely to give an outline of the facts stated, and the suggestions made, in the report to be submitted by Major Griswold. The beneficial effects of the work, even thus far, are already plain and unequivocal, and if such is the case now, how much greater must be the improvement when the work of closing the gap between Zeke's and Smith's Island is completed; to say nothing of the total regeneration of our port should the improvements be extended to the entire closing of New Inlet? The advantages to be derived from a continuation of the work are plain and manifest, and money is all that is needed to carry the enterprise safely through. On the contrary should Congress grant no further aid and the work be therefore compelled to stop, all the money thus far expended will have proved, not only unavailing, but an absolute waste, and Wilmington may at once, for at least a century or two to come, take a back seat among the third, and fourth, rate towns.

A Word to Planters.

The past year has been a most disastrous one to the planters of the South. In many sections the owners of land are retiring from planting and renting to negroes. We fear that this step will not remedy existing evils, or repair the disasters of the past. As the time has nearly arrived when arrangements must be made for the approaching crop, it becomes a serious question with our agriculturists how these disasters can be remedied. As we are led to believe that the price of cotton has been affected by the quantity produced, it is proper that mistakes are not made in "pitching crops" which cannot be corrected at a later period.

The present price of cotton is now below the average cost of production, at least in the uplands, if not throughout the

entire cotton producing State. Where its cultivation is attended with great cost for fertilizer, a longer continuance of raising cotton to the exclusion of the provision crops will certainly bankrupt the planters.

In order to present the views of practical men upon this important matter, we give prominence to the following well considered article from the Augusta Banner of the South and Planter Journal, which deserves consideration:

"No country can become rich, which, being purely agricultural itself, falls to produce a full supply of provisions for man and beast. No class of agriculturists can be permanently prosperous who fail to make all the supplies on the farm which are necessary for the support and maintenance of their laborers and work animals. Even in the days of slavery, when much more attention was paid to the raising of provisions than now, few planters realized six per cent on their investment from the sale of their products. It is true that many cotton planters amassed large fortunes, but so far as our knowledge extends, they were of the class, not numerous even then, who made on the plantation, in addition to large cotton crops, abundant supplies of provisions. It was this class who realized most from the natural increase of their slaves, because the supplies of provisions necessary for the greatest productions and fullest development of young slaves were abundant on their plantations, and therefore, cheap."

"The cotton planters have given all cotton a fair trial since the close of the war. They have for five years devoted their entire plantations to the production of this leading staple, and with rare industry and energy, devoted themselves to the raising of large crops. Within that period the seasons have been generally good, and their crops as full as the labor, care and money bestowed upon them would warrant, yet they are to-day, as a class, as poor as when they emerged from the desolation of the war. During this term they have realized large prices for their cotton except for the crop of 1867 and that of the past year."

"There can be no doubt as to the future price of this staple. Like all other products of the farm, its price is regulated by the supply and demand. If the demand for consumption is in excess of the supply produced, prices will rule correspondingly high. When production exceeds the wants of the world, and a large surplus is on hand, prices fall to ruinously low prices, and remain there as long as the excess over consumption is maintained. The present condition of the cotton market and of the cotton trade, illustrates this truth. The crop of 1869 barely exceeded the consumption of that year, and the average price for that crop was about 24 cents per pound—a rate at which cotton can be raised with profit on the thin lands of the Atlantic States. The crop of last year promises to be largely in excess of the estimated wants of consumers, and hence the price falls to a point actually below the cost of production. Perhaps prices might have ruled slightly higher than they are now, even though a very large crop is made, if there had been no war in Europe. But with peace profound in all the European States, the supply would be largely in excess of the wants of commerce."

"We cannot, then, hope for an increase of price so long as the relations of the demand for consumption to the visible supply remain as they are—so long as the production of the staple is so largely in excess of the wants of consumers."

"We take it for granted that planters are agreed that the cost of raising cotton is near or quite the price at which it is now selling—say about 12 to 13 cents per lb. We do not believe that it can be raised, except in exceptional cases of favored localities, for this amount. But admitting that the estimate of its cost which we have made is nearly correct, does it not necessarily follow that a persistence in this system of over-production will inevitably lead to the ruin of the producer? Will then planters, in making arrangements for the incoming crop, best consult their own interest by curtailing the production of cotton to such an extent at least as will enable them to save full crops of provisions? Does it not have the appearance of insult to ask intelligent planters such a question? And yet we fear that many, very many, will go on this year as in the past, devoting themselves exclusively to cotton, and relying entirely on the West for bread and meat, and provender for stock. That disaster and distress will follow them we entertain no doubt."

"This is a matter of too much importance to be lightly considered or hastily determined upon. Planters should look the situation squarely in the face—consider well the teachings of the past, and strive to calculate with some degree of accuracy the results of the future. With large provision crops, well filled barns and an ample ladder, the perils of cotton planting are seriously mitigated."

"Even among the planters of the fruitful and fertile valleys of the West this question of our production and consequent low prices is engaging serious attention. The New Orleans Picayune, in a recent issue, thus discourses with its readers:

"The time is at hand when our planters will determine upon the year's operations, and we would advise the owners to warn them, even at the risk of wearisome iteration, not to give their main efforts to the production of cotton. It might seem that the severe losses sustained by the cotton planters, and the fact that they have learned their lesson. We trust so. At least some are hopeful, will profit by a small minority, we fear. It may be said that cotton planters, like other men, know their own business best. True; but it does not follow that they know their own interest best; otherwise we should not have a steady increase in production over consumption in the face of falling prices and increased cost of labor. 'We will not dwell upon these points, for they are staple likely to pay' so long as production keeps its present pace, and labor continues to be so unreliable and costly, and do not neglect the bread and meat. The latter are 'sure crops,' imperious to the army or bold worn, and beyond the influence of Liverpool or New York cotton rings."

"It will not be sufficient for planters to merely give their assent to these propositions. They must, like reasonable and prudent men, act upon them. For the first

point to be looked to in pitching the crop must be a sufficiency of food. The quantity of land necessary to produce this result is then to be considered. But the average of our cotton lands—twelve acres for each horse used on the farm in corn and five in oats or rye—will, if properly fertilized and well cultivated, produce enough for the supply of the plantation. Less than this amount will be entirely inadequate for the years consumption."

The War in Europe—The Situation at Present.

The last hope of France is gone. Until now there was some chance that the valor of her people would triumph over the invaders of her soil, and would finally conquer an honorable and equitable peace. This chance has just been lost, not so much by the defeat of Gen. Chanzu, as by the faulty direction of his retreat. If he lost from twenty to thirty thousand men in killed, wounded and prisoners in the last engagements around Le Mans, he has been re-inforced since to a greater amount; and the German losses must have been severe also. But by his retreat upon Laval he has thrown himself outside of the military chess-board, and it will be a miracle if he can hereafter become available. If the reader casts his eye upon a map of France, he will see that if Chanzu had retreated upon Beaumont and Dreux, leaving Alencon to his left—or even passing through Alencon, one or two night marches, such as we used to make in our war, would have brought him nearer to Paris than the army of the Red Prince. This army then, attacking promptly the Prussians at Versailles, while Trochu attacked them from Paris, might probably have gained a great success. At all events, this was the best chance that was left. Now, it is evident that the army of the Loire, formed of raw levies, however reinforced by still more inexperienced recruits, cannot cope with the veterans who have marched victoriously from the Rhine to the Loire. These young conscripts have proved their valor, and saved the military honor of their country, compromised by the armies of the Empire; but valor alone is insufficient against experience and discipline. What France has needed above all things is one single man capable of leading and commanding large armies. McMahon was perhaps the only General she had, and he was sacrificed from the beginning without having a chance to show what he could do. Bazaine, and all the rest, even to Trochu, have proved unequal to the situation. Chanzu, with over 200,000 men it is said, fought his last battle with 60,000 and let them get crushed, while all the rest of his troops were idle. Trochu made a sortie with 100,000 and was repulsed, while it is morally certain that if he had put in 200,000 out of the 400,000, or 500,000 that he has on hand, he would have been successful. And now, like Bazaine, he stands idle, eating up his horses, upon which his efficiency depends, and makes no effort to break the circle which imprisons him. His inaction, if not speedily broken, must end in surrender. As to his supposed purpose, praised by the New York Herald as an evidence of high military ability, to abandon Paris and take his army to an entrenched camp under the guns of Mt. Valerien, it is simply absurd. Supposing he could induce his army, composed mainly of the drafted citizens of Paris, to follow him to such a camp, how could they, concentrated within a comparatively small area, without casemates or shelters, sustain the fire of the twelve or fifteen hundred heavy guns which would immediately be concentrated upon them? And if they did, what better hope of relief would they have in the entrenched camp than in the city? The invading lines would be much stronger because much shorter. The Prussian armies in the field could be reinforced by all those that would be spared from the siege of Paris, and a surrender greater than that of Sedan or Metz would close the drama at the last."

Yet the latest dispatches state that the people of Paris, exasperated by a barbarous bombardment, are determined to make a defence unparalleled in history. All honor be to them. Paris has well deserved the name of the "heroic city." She may perish utterly and be buried in her own ashes. Prince Hohenlohe, the chief of artillery, has given orders to destroy all the public buildings that can be reached by the Prussian guns. This brutal vandalism, more worthy of the Huns and the Goths than of a Christian nation, may succeed in its object; but it is laying the seeds of undying hatred and revenge; and though it take a hundred years, France will never rest until Prussia is made to drink of the same bitter cup of humiliation."

France is perishing for the want of one great man. Had she possessed one such leader as our Lee, or Jackson, the French tri-corn would be now waving on the right bank of the Rhine."

The Raleigh Gazette, now the leading Republican paper in the State, says of Mr. Abbott's intention to contest the seat of Senator-elect Vance: "We think the plea simply absurd. If the Republican party had a majority in the Legislature, they would not have elected Mr. Abbott to the Senate, that is certain."

At Bay, but not Caged.

The Raleigh Sentinel learns that Gov. Caldwell, through a messenger, has succeeded in getting the lion of swindlers, Gen. Littlefield, at bay, though by no means caged. On Thursday the messenger telegraphed Governor Caldwell that he had come up with Littlefield in Florida, and had demanded his rendition of the Governor of that State, who refused to give the rogue up until he could consult his Attorney-General. The latter reserved his opinion till next (last Friday) morning, in all probability to give Littlefield time to slip.

A family of children in Indiana, whenever a hunter invades their father's farm, skiver the fields in front of him, and when he fires one of the children falls, pretending to be hit by a stray shot, Nimrod flees, and the juveniles pick up the squirrels.

CHRISTMAS AT ROCKY POINT.

Address of Mr. C. A. Hines, delivered at a Christmas Tree Festival of the Rocky Point Sabbath School, Christmas, 1870.

Mr. Superintendent, Members of Rocky Point Sabbath School, Ladies and Gentlemen:

You are aware that your Committee allowed me but a very short time for preparation, and I must confess that, while indulging the hope that the gentlemen of your first choice would respond, I have not improved the short time allowed me. I feel as I know he does, deeply sensible of the compliment you, through your Committee have paid me, and take this opportunity to thank you; and should I succeed in entertaining you for a short time on this festive occasion, I shall at least attain self gratulations."

While I would not detract from your pleasures allow me to urge you to remember the peculiar solemnity of this occasion, and the importance of the mission of the one whose birthday you are here to commemorate. Previous to his coming we were aliens and enemies to an offended God; with nothing to commend us to an inheritance in heaven, and with a prophecy declaring that the only atonement that could be made for fallen man would be the birth, suffering and death of the only Son of God. Eighteen hundred and seventy years ago there appeared to the vision of man a great phenomenon in nature—an angel communicating with a group of shepherds in a field; men with uplifted hands following the direction indicated by a star in the east, and finding a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. An humble birth place for one whose father is God."

Twelve years later we find him sitting in a temple, surrounded by the grave and learned of the land. Again we see him raising the dead to life; amid the tempest walking upon the troubled waters of the sea and boarding a ship. Next he is seen restoring sight to the blind, speech to the dumb and knowledge to the ignorant. Again, but more sad the picture, we see him dying upon a cross, surrounded by an armed soldiery, a thick darkness coming on, the earth beginning to shake, and only one voice heard, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Thus was the plan of salvation consummated and man restored to the favor of his God."

Well may we rejoice at the return of this glorious anniversary. A day to be held in everlasting remembrance. A day whose light irradiates joy through the hearts of all nations upon whom have fallen the light of Revelation."

The more appropriate is this celebration in that it is near the anniversary of your Sabbath School, and in this place allow me to drop a word of encouragement.—Your Superintendent and Teachers, with a true sense of the great responsibility resting upon them, with a lively interest have assumed the task and need no new impetus from me. To my young friends who compose this School, I would say improve these golden opportunities, only to be appreciated as you become men and women."

I congratulate you upon having teachers whose zeal and capacities are adequate to the task. I congratulate you upon the interest you have manifested and the punctuality that has marked your attendance, and especially do I congratulate you upon this demonstration which your friends have made of their appreciation of your efforts. Here I would beg pardon for referring to a subject so sad in its nature, but in reviewing your number I miss two once bright and cheerful faces that were conspicuous in your body. Strange the coincidence that this sad bereavement should have fallen upon so prominent in your school. The ways of God are mysterious. But why be sad? He, whose birthday we are here to commemorate, bidding them to be pure for earth, has taken them to himself and made them bright and shining stars in the galaxy of heaven, and whose spirits commingling with yours, are enjoying this festival in common with you. Let me assure you that should you continue and prosper in the future as in the past year, many occasions like the present await you; and should you cherish the truths here inculcated a day will be yours, compared to which all others are insignificant. Many men who have attained to positions of honor and usefulness date their first impressions to the Sabbath School. With the superior advantages here enjoyed why may not every one connected with this school attain to some positions of distinction and usefulness, and thereby become a benefactor to those yet unborn?"

But if I may be allowed to anticipate your thoughts, I would say that, instead of building castles of future greatness, your hearts are set on the joys and pleasures of the present, and I fear that I am incurring your displeasure by this encroachment upon your time. But be patient. The hour of your rejoicing is at hand. Tonight is the coming of your old friend Santa Claus. Hang up your stockings, and retire to slumber, only to be disturbed by dreams of fruits and toys, for to-night he pays his annual visit. Prepare your hearts to bid him welcome. Truly an aged Philanthropist, for eighteen hundred years paying an annual visit, administering to the wants of the young alone. Benefactor of my youth, Samaritan of my childhood, should time last, eighteen hundred years to come thy pilgrimage on earth will be unchanged. As you are active alone in winter, in summer may you retire to the shade of your Christmas Tree, which casts no gloomy shadow."

There is another, who, from his egotistical nature and appreciation of self, feels that his presence is indispensable on these festive occasions, and who acts a conspicuous part in these Christmas dramas, and whose touch is more fatal, and whose visits should be less welcome; but as all are disposed, he is friendly to the children, never disturbing their youthful fancies. He always acts the part of a spy. Secret in all his movements, but destructive in his aim, his victims are those of more matured years, but innocent and unsuspecting."

It is gratifying to notice that the leading staples produced in this section are receiving that attention at the hands of the thoughtful merchant which their importance in the world's commerce so justly entitles them to. They will always prove to be leading articles in the world's traffic, and be in demand wherever civilization has a foothold. The rice crop of the South, so long famous for its quality, is slowly recovering its former importance. With some improvement in machinery, thereby lessening its cost, it can be grown in numerous articles which now lie waste.—Mr. E. Willis, merchant of New York City, has prepared a statement of the estimated crop of this grain in the South for 1870-71. The following are the results:

This circular indicates much research.

Then, as a watchman upon the Tower, to signal the approach of the enemy, I would say to you, ladies and gentlemen, that there is an enemy in camp. Then, if you would shield yourselves from his missiles, protect yourselves in all the paraphernalia of resistance, and close the doors of your hearts. But, claiming to yourselves the power of self government, I know you charge me with presumption. But as a faithful sentinel I have warned you of the approach of the enemy, and the responsibility rests with you. Then march on, Cupid, from conquests to conquest—selecting thine own victims. Let thy shafts fall thick, and with power, upon the camp of the fairer ones, who have been idly open rebellion to thy realm; and if there be one of the rougher sex who would presume to rebel against thee, thine own brain alone is adequate to assign the penalty. Then learn a lesson from the example set by our own liberal government, and show no mercy to rebels."

Mr. Superintendent, and members of the Sabbath School, I congratulate you upon the success of this year's first festival. But when I look around, and see so forcibly impressed, and indelibly stamped, the image of those whose handy work it is, I express no surprise at your success; for the work was committed to the charge of those who know no failure—a prominent virtue in the character of North Carolina women. I congratulate you, ladies, upon this display of taste and elegance, for which you have ever been noted. All things now being ready, let us join these children in one common rejoicing. Let us turn a child's heart to that figure, yet a child's truthfulness and confidence. The tree is decorated with merit and cheerfulness. Innocent, be they ever held beneath the branches of that Christmas tree that cast no shadow of sorrow. But I hear a whisper going through its leaves:

"This in commemoration of the law of love and kindness, mercy and compassion. This in remembrance of Me."

To this end, Mr. Superintendent, members of the Sabbath School, ladies and gentlemen, one and all, I wish you a merry, happy Christmas."

Chief Justice Chase.

New York City, Jan. 6, of the Chicago Journal.

Chief Justice Chase has come to New York to spend the winter. He, along with his daughter, has taken rooms in a pleasant neighborhood just out of Fifth avenue. Though in feeble health, he is able to see his friends, and to receive calls from his old political friends, and is quite cheerful. It is very plain to see, however, after a few moments conversation with him, that his present physical prostration is a source of no little unhappiness to him. He seems to have abandoned all idea of attaining the Presidential chair, feeling that his health would never permit of his accepting a nomination should one be tendered him. In case the bill continuing the salaries of judges resigning because of ill health should become a law, the Chief Justice will probably resign. He feels that he has not enough to support him in good style without his continuing to draw a revenue from some source.—He is, however, worth about \$100,000. Though I do not by any means admire his integrity, I can but admire his integrity. Probably no American ever enjoyed a better opportunity for making a colossal fortune than did Mr. Chase when he was Secretary of the Treasury. But he made no more than his salary, and as late as a year ago he did not feel that he could afford a horse to ride to and from home in Washington. He has always been a tremendous worker. This was particularly the case when he was at the head of the Treasury Department. His brain was overtaxed, and, in fact, it has been ever since. The relations of friendship between him and the President are of a friendly though not intimate nature. A marked characteristic in Judge Chase's character is his power of retaining the regard and friendship of his personal followers. Two years ago, when he was called upon to go into the Tammany camp, these old friends, abolitionists of the strictest sect, were ready to go along with him. Now, he is constantly receiving visits from whilom Radical friends, who call to let him know that they still stand with him politically, wherever they may be."

A Boy's Composition on the Goat.

A goat is stronger than a pig, and gives milk. He looks at you—so does the doctor—but a goat has four legs. My goat-buttad Deacon Tillingham in a bad place, and a little calf wouldn't do so. A Boy's goat father is an orphan, and he has no goat mother he is two orphans. The goat don't give as much milk as the cow, but more than the ox. I saw an ox at a fair one day with a card tied to his left ear, and we went in on a family ticket. Mother picks geese in the summer, and the goat eats grass and jumps on a box. Some folks don't like goats; but as for me, give me a male with a paint brush tail. The goat is a useful animal, but don't smell as sweet as nice bear's oil for the hair. If I had too much hair I would wear a wig, as old Capt. Peters does. I will sell my goat for \$3, and go to the circus to see the elephant, which is bigger than five goats. Father is coming home to-morrow, and the baby has got the croup bad."

A Great Work Completed.

The great iron railroad bridge over the Ohio river at Parkersburg, West Virginia, connecting the Baltimore and Ohio and Marietta and Cincinnati Railroads, was completed on Saturday last, which is ninety feet above low water mark, over four thousand feet long, has been built by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company at a cost of over a million dollars.—Since Sunday regular freight and passenger trains between Baltimore, Cincinnati and the West have been crossing over the bridge, making the time here to Cincinnati in about twenty-two hours."

The Rice Crop.

It is gratifying to notice that the leading staples produced in this section are receiving that attention at the hands of the thoughtful merchant which their importance in the world's commerce so justly entitles them to. They will always prove to be leading articles in the world's traffic, and be in demand wherever civilization has a foothold. The rice crop of the South, so long famous for its quality, is slowly recovering its former importance. With some improvement in machinery, thereby lessening its cost, it can be grown in numerous articles which now lie waste.—Mr. E. Willis, merchant of New York City, has prepared a statement of the estimated crop of this grain in the South for 1870-71. The following are the results:

Acres.	Bushels to the acre.	Casks.
North Carolina, 1,000	30	1,000
South Carolina, 30,000	30	30,000
Georgia, 20,000	30	20,000
Florida, 10,000	30	10,000
Alabama, 10,000	30	10,000
Mississippi, 10,000	30	10,000
Louisiana, 10,000	30	10,000
Total acres.		85,000

This circular indicates much research.

Our Railroad Swindlers.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 16, 1871.
To the Editor of the Raleigh Sentinel:

Will you do me the favor to publish the following anonymous communication received by me this morning, post marked Raleigh, January 16:

FRIEND EDWIN—Please understand what I say to you in this letter, it is with the most kindly feeling, being a friend to both you and the parties herein named, as well as the Republican party; would it not be best for you, Swenson and Littlefield, as well as the Republican party—if you were not to press this Western Railroad affair further, for it is evident if they are let alone a few days longer they will bring everything out O. K.—on the contrary, if they are pushed, and if worst comes to worst, they will be obliged to scoot in all, in their downfall, and you will recollect, you are interested to the amount of \$500,000, as shown by Littlefield, as President of the Road, and as a member of the company, for services rendered to the Company, but for an entirely private matter; the same check, endorsed by you is still in existence, and you can see, at once, that it would be unpleasant for you, as well as them, to bring those things to light. Understand, I am a friend to you and the Republican party, and can see that by your downfall as well as that of many other Republicans, our cause will be almost hopeless. Trusting this advice may not be lost, I remain, yours truly,

REPUBLICAN.

I beg to assure the unscrupulous knave who dictated this anonymous calumny that it is not only not "unpleasant" to me to receive his written insinuation of it, but on the contrary it is just what I wanted; as furnished to the public, it is a tangible evidence of the dishonest design of this crooked and criminal combination of thieves, (whose practices I am about to expose and punish in the courts) to destroy every man who is bold enough to attack them. I defy them all, whether in or out of the Republican party, to show the shadow of a purpose to bring them to justice at the risk of my life.

The statement made in the above letter of a transaction between Gen. Littlefield and myself, at the time I agreed to become an editor of the Standard, is false. He gave me, at Asheville, the presence of another gentleman, the day after he was elected President of the road, when everything connected with the road was colored *de rose*, a check for \$500, which I exhibited, and without any concealment of it, or on the ground of its being a loan, I had cashed at Asheville. I have spoken of it freely and without reserve ever since—not to excuse or apologize for the transaction, for that it did not need—but to explain the circumstances connected with my agreeing to edit the Standard.

I do not remember now, how the check was signed by Littlefield, whether as President of the road or as an individual. My correspondent with the "kindly feeling," no doubt has it in his possession. Let him produce it. My impression is, however, from the fact of its having occurred, that it was signed by Littlefield as President, and the check drawn in that way was one of the contrivances to entangle me, so that my mouth could be shut. This is apparent from the attempt made in the above letter to intimate that I was engaged in posing a business transaction connected with this check which I have made no effort to conceal, and which I now avow, and will maintain, in any way that is honest and unimpeachable.

Do not mistake this as not intended as a vindication of my conduct. In my own conscience I am perfectly easy about that, and have no excuses or apologies to make to individuals or the public. If, hereafter, when I shall have succeeded, as I will in setting Littlefield, Swenson and other rogues at naught, in cracking rock in the Penitentiary, if any person is serious enough to inquire of me, I will enter into full particulars of the whole history of their nefarious design to ruin me, which is manifest enough from the contents of the above letter, and of my present position in publishing this letter, instigated by Swenson before he left the city where he was in duress vile for a week or more for his crimes on account of a movement against him, set on foot by me, is to exhibit to the people of the State of all parties and conditions, of their assorted to, to suppress prosecutions and hush them up by bribes or threats. These men are rich and powerful